

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01

AID-05 /100 W

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P R 301900Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3637

INFO AMCONSUL BELEM

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL PORT O ALEGRE

AMCONSUL RECIFE

AMCONSUL SALVADOR

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : ELAB BR UK

SUBJECT : INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL WORKERS (ICF) RELATIONS
WITH BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT

1. INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL AND GENERAL WORKER'S UNION (ICF) HAS,
WITH BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT PERMISSION, MAINTAINED OFFICE AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR ALL OF LATIN AMERICA IN RIO DE
JANEIRO SINCE 1967. ICF REPRESENTATIVE, HERBERT KEMMSIES,
IS US CITIZEN BORN IN GERMANY BROUGHT UP IN BRAZIL WITH ENGIN-
EERING DEGREE FROM US UNIVERSITY. ICF SIGNED UP SOLE BRAZILIAN
AFFILIATE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF ELECTRIC POWER WORKERS (FNTIU)
1970. FNTIU, HOWEVER, ABRUPTLY SUSPENDED AFFILIATION AND
STOPPED PAYMENT PER CAPITA TAX IN 1973, IN ORDER TO RE-
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EVALUATE OVERALL GOB ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIS INTERNATIONAL AFFILIA-

TIONS. IN APRIL 1974, GOB (I.E., MINISTRY OF LABOR) DISAPPROVED AN AFFILIATION REQUEST WITH ICF ON THE PART OF RIO DE JANEIRO PERFUME WORKER'S LOCAL UNION.

2. IN RECENT WEEKS KEMMSIES HAS REPORTED THAT POWERFUL SAO PAULO STATE FEDERATION OF CHEMICAL WORKERS HAS TAKEN FAVORABLE EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION ON ICF AFFILIATION AND WILL REQUEST GOB APPROVAL. KEMMSIES ALSO REQUESTED LABOR ATTACHE'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MEETING WITH LABOR MINISTER ARMALDO DA COSTA PRIETO WHOM KEMMSIES FELT HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY AVOIDING SUCH A MEETING. IN RESPONSE TO KEMMSIES REQUEST, LABOR ATTACHE DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH DR PAULO SANTOS, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, MINISTRY OF LABOR RIO DE JANEIRO WHO SAID MINISTER PRIETO IS "STUDYING" KEMMSIES REQUEST BUT BECAUSE OF MINISTER'S HEAVY SCHEDULE NOT LIKELY TO BE GRANTED IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. DR SANTOS ALSO TOLD LABOR ATTACHE GOB DOES NOT LOOK WITH FAVOR ON BRAZILIAN TRADE UNION CONTACTS WITH EUROPEAN BASED INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS (ITS) AS GOB FEELS THEY ARE "SOCIALIST" ORIENTED AND REGARDED AS BEING "SOFT" ON COMMUNISM AND ALSO IN DEALING WITH IRON CURTAIN AND SOVIET WORLD FEDERATION TRADE UNIONS (WFTU). KEMMSIES ALSO REQUESTED BRITISH SUPPORT AND DR SANTOS REPORTED BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL HAS MADE INQUIRIES OF LABOR MINISTRY REGARDING STATUS OF KEMMSIES' REQUEST TO MEET WITH LABOR MINISTER. BRITISH CONSULATE REPORTS INTERVENTION MADE IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM A LABOR PARTY MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

4. MANY ITS'S HAVE BRAZILIAN UNION AFFILIATES, I.E., PTTI, IMF, IFCCTE, ITF, ETC. NONE, HOWEVER, HAVE HAD REPRESENTATIVES STATIONED IN BRAZIL SINCE 1968 WHEN GOB ISSUED REGULATIONS REQUIRING PRIOR APPROVAL FOR ITS'S TO MAINTAIN OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES. THERE IS ALSO LITTLE DOUBT THAT ITS ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL ARE CLOSELY MONITORED.

5. THE ISSUE IS FURTHER COMPLICATED AS ARY CAMPISTA, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS (CNTI), BRAZIL'S LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT CONFEDERATION, CONSIDERS KEMMSIES AN ENEMY AND A THREAT TO CAMPISTA'S HEGEMONY IN CHEMICAL WORKER UNIONS, CAMPISTA'S TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION BASE. CAMPISTA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS ALSO AND INTIMATE FRIEND AND UNOFFICIAL TRADE UNION ADVISOR TO GEN (RET) GOLBERY DO COUTO E SILVA, CHIEF OF PRESIDENT'S CIVILIAN HOUSEHOLD. FRECHETTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RIODE01654
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: RIO DE JANEIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976041/aaaaaaap.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL WORKERS (ICF) RELATIONS WITH BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: ELAB, BR, UK
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BELEM BRASILIA LONDON PORTO ALEGRE RECIFE SALVADOR SAO PAULO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006